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The Honorable John W. McCormack
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of 21 July regarding the proposed site for the new CIA headquarters installation. In our search for a site we have considered over 30 possible locations, several of which were in Maryland. This study has taken several months, in the course of which we have talked with representatives of the planning commissions of each of the Maryland counties surrounding the District. We have also had meetings with the Maryland representative on the Regional Planning Council and a representative of the Maryland Park and Planning Commission.

One of the criteria which have entered into our thinking on this matter is the necessity of being not more than 10 miles or 20 minutes driving time from the White House and a little shorter time and distance if possible from the Pentagon and the Department of State. Secondly, we have had to consider the accessibility of the proposed site to the bulk of our employees in traveling to and from work, particularly in the light of the heavy traffic situation during the rush hours in the District generally. From these standpoints, which enter into the efficiency of our organization, we came to the conclusion that of all of the sites considered the best would be the one on Government-owned land at Langley, Virginia, or, in the alternative, a site which could be purchased in the Alexandria area.

I can assure you that we have given the most careful consideration to the possibility of locating in Maryland, and two sites in that State were among the final six which we considered. However, after carefully weighing all of the factors, we have reached the conclusions that I have noted above.

I appreciate your calling this matter again to my attention, and if there is anything further that I can do in connection with the site selection, I would be glad to discuss it with you.

I hope that now that Congress is adjourning you will be able to look forward to a well-deserved rest and a pleasant vacation at home. If you are in Washington at all during the Fall I hope you will let us know and come down and lunch with us.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

OGC:WLP/blc (2 Aug. 55)
Orig. & 1 - Add.
2 - Signer ✓
2 - Legislative Counsel
1 - DD/S
1 - Dir. of Logistics w/basic

CONCUR:

Deputy Director/Support